

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) An information stream monitoring system comprising:

an information monitoring device that monitors one or more electronic documents in an information stream associated with a first electronic forum, and compares information about the one or more electronic documents to ~~at least one rule~~ one or more rules; and

a forum spawning device that queries a set of users participating in the first forum when at least one of the ~~at least one~~ one or more rules is satisfied, and creates a new electronic forum based on one or more replies from the set of users.

2. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1, further comprising an invitation determining device that determines which of the set of users are queried by the forum spawning device based on the one or more electronic documents.

3. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1, wherein the forum spawning device queries the set of users to determine a need for the new electronic forum.

4. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1, further comprising a subscriber determining device that determines a set of subscribers based on the one or more electronic documents that satisfy the at least one of the one or more rules ~~at least one rule~~.

5. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1, further comprising a subscriber maintenance device that associates ~~at least one user and~~ the new electronic forum and at least one of the set of users.

6. (Original) The system of claim 1, further comprising an electronic document storage device that stores the one or more electronic documents.

7. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the electronic document is at least one of: an electronic message; an e-mail; a bulletin board posting; and an annotation to a shared document.

8. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1, wherein the [[an]] information comparison is based on at least one of a rule-based model and a statistical-based model.

9. (Currently Amended) An information stream monitoring method comprising:

monitoring one or more electronic documents in an information stream associated with a first forum;

comparing information about the one or more electronic documents to one or more rules ~~at least one rule~~; and

querying a set of users participating in the first electronic forum when at least one of the one or more ~~at least one~~ rules is satisfied; and

creating a new electronic forum automatically based on one or more replies from the set of users.

10. (Original) The method of claim 9, further comprising determining a set of message recipients based on the one or more electronic documents.

11. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 9, wherein querying the set of users determines a need for the new electronic forum.

12. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 9, further comprising determining a set of subscribers based on the one or more electronic documents that satisfy the one or more rules ~~at least one rule~~.

13. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 9, further comprising associating ~~at least one user and~~ the new electronic forum and at least one of the set of users.

14. (Original) The method of claim 9, further comprising storing the one or more electronic documents.

15. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 9, wherein the one or more electronic document documents is at least one of: an electronic message; an e-mail; a bulletin board posting; and an annotation to a shared document.

16. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 9, wherein the ~~[[an]]~~ information comparison is based on at least one of a rule-based model and a statistical-based model.

17. (Currently Amended) An A computer readable information storage media comprising information that, when executed by a computer, cause the computer to perform a method comprising:

~~monitoring information that monitors~~ one or more electronic documents in an information stream associated with a first electronic forum;

~~comparing information that compares~~ information about the one or more electronic documents to ~~at least one rule~~ one or more rules;

~~querying information that queries~~ a set of users participating in the first electronic forum when at least one of the ~~at least one~~ one or more rules is satisfied; and

~~creating information that creates~~ a new electronic forum based on one or more replies from the set of users.

18. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable information storage media ~~method~~ of claim 17, further comprising determining ~~information that determines~~ a set of message recipients based on the one or more electronic documents.

19. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable information storage media of claim 17, wherein querying the set of users determines a need for the new electronic forum.

20. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable information storage media of claim 17, further comprising determining ~~information that determines~~ a set of subscribers based on the one or more electronic documents that satisfy ~~at least one rule~~ the one or more rules.

21. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable information storage media of claim 17, further comprising ~~information that associates~~ associating the new electronic forum and at least one of the set of users.

22. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable information storage media of claim 17, further comprising storing information ~~that stores~~ the one or more electronic documents.

23. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable information storage media of claim 17, wherein the one or more electronic document documents is at least one of: an electronic message; an e-mail; a bulletin board posting; and an annotation to a shared document.

24. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable information storage media of claim 17, wherein the ~~[[an]]~~ information comparison is based on at least one of a rule-based model and a statistical-based model.

25. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable information storage media of claim 17, wherein the previously presented information comparison compares at least one of: subject information; electronic document posting information; and electronic document tracking information.

26. (Currently Amended) An information monitoring system comprising:

an information monitoring device for monitoring data associated with electronic documents in an information stream associated with a first electronic forum, the information monitoring device adapted to compare the data from the electronic documents according to a rule; and

a forum spawning device for querying a set of users participating in the first electronic forum when the rule is satisfied, and for creating a new electronic forum based on one or more replies ~~a reply~~ from the set of users.

27. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1, ~~wherein the information stream is an electronic forum and~~ wherein the one or more electronic documents are one or more electronic messages.

28. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 9, ~~wherein the information stream is an electronic forum and~~ wherein the one or more electronic documents are one or more electronic messages.

29. (Currently Amended) The information storage media of claim 17, ~~wherein the information stream is an electronic forum and~~ wherein the one or more electronic documents are one or more electronic messages.

30. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 26, ~~wherein the information stream is an electronic forum and~~ wherein the one or more electronic documents are one or more electronic messages.

31. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1, wherein the information stream is ~~an electronic forum comprising~~ comprises one or more electronic messages flowing between two or more of the set of users.

32. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 9, wherein the information stream is ~~an electronic forum comprising~~ comprises one or more electronic messages flowing between two or more of the set of users.

33. (Currently Amended) The information storage media of claim 17, wherein the information stream is ~~an electronic forum comprising~~ comprises one or more electronic messages flowing between two or more of the set of users.

34. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 26, wherein the information stream is ~~an electronic forum comprising~~ comprises one or more electronic messages flowing between two or more of the set of users.

35. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1, wherein the ~~at least one rule~~ one or more rules ~~comprise~~ comprises at least one of the following: how long the ~~current electronic discussion~~ forum has been in use; how many messages have been exchanged on the electronic forum; whether there has been a suggestion to create a new discussion forum; whether a certain number of messages on a particular topic been received within a predetermined time period; whether the rate of messages exchanged on a particular topic been statistically greater than normal; or whether a certain number of forum members exchanged messages on a particular topic within a predetermined time period.

36. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 9, wherein the one or more rules ~~comprise~~ comprises at least one of the following: how long the electronic ~~current discussion~~ forum has been in use; how many messages have been

exchanged on the electronic forum; whether there has been a suggestion to create a new discussion forum; whether a certain number of messages on a particular topic been received within a predetermined time period; whether the rate of messages exchanged on a particular topic been statistically greater than normal; or whether a certain number of forum members exchanged messages on a particular topic within a predetermined time period.

37. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable information storage media of claim 17, wherein the one or more rules comprise ~~at least one rule comprises~~ at least one of the following: how long the electronic ~~current discussion~~ forum has been in use; how many messages have been exchanged on the electronic forum; whether there has been a suggestion to create a new discussion forum; whether a certain number of messages on a particular topic been received within a predetermined time period; whether the rate of messages exchanged on a particular topic been statistically greater than normal; or whether a certain number of forum members exchanged messages on a particular topic within a predetermined time period.

38. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 26, wherein the rule comprises at least one of the following: how long the electronic ~~current discussion~~ forum has been in use; how many messages have been exchanged on the electronic forum; whether there has been a suggestion to create a new discussion forum; whether a certain number of messages on a particular topic been received within a predetermined time period; whether the rate of messages exchanged on a particular topic been statistically greater than normal; or whether a certain number of forum members exchanged messages on a particular topic within a predetermined time period.

39. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1, wherein the comparison is between newer messages and older messages to determine when a new topic of conversation has begun.

40. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 39, wherein the information monitoring device detects whether the new topic of conversation is likely to generate additional messages.

41. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1, wherein the forum spawning device further adds at least one of the set of users to the new electronic forum, and

wherein the at least one of the set of users of the new forum receive receives messages from both the ~~original~~ first electronic forum and the new electronic forum.

42. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 9, wherein the comparing is comparing newer messages to older messages to determine when a new topic of conversation has begun.

43. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 42, further comprising detecting whether the new topic of conversation is likely to generate additional messages.

44. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 9, further comprises adding at least one of the set of users to the new electronic forum, and wherein said at least one of the set of users of the new forum receive receives messages from both the first electronic ~~original~~ forum and the new electronic forum.

45. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable information storage media of claim 17, wherein the comparison is between newer messages and older messages to determine when a new topic of conversation has begun.

46. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable information storage media of claim 45, further comprising ~~information that detects~~ detecting whether the new topic of conversation is likely to generate additional messages.

47. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable information storage media of claim 17, further comprising adding at least one of the set of users to the new electronic forum, and wherein said at least one of the set of users of the new forum receive receives messages from both the ~~original~~ first electronic forum and the new electronic forum.

48. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 26, wherein the comparison is between newer messages and older messages to determine when a new topic of conversation has begun.

49. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 48, wherein the information monitoring device detects whether the new topic of conversation is likely to generate additional messages.

50. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 26, wherein the forum spawning device further adds at least one of the set of users to the new electronic forum, and wherein the at least one of the set of users of the new forum receive receives messages from both the ~~original~~ first electronic forum and the new electronic forum.